

**A Melancholy Event and the Moral of It.**

The melancholy accident which resulted in the death of Mr. Michael O'Connor yesterday, on the South Side Railroad, conveys another emphatic warning to railroad travelers. The steam railroad is one of the greatest agents of modern civilization; it demands on the part of those who use it extraordinary care. No man in his senses would think of jumping from a wagon going at the rate of even six miles an hour, except in view of an emergency involving greater danger. Yet every hour of the day men jump off and on railroad cars when it is impossible to estimate by the eye whether they are, at the moment, going at the rate of six miles an hour or twenty. Life is risked every day by passengers in order to escape some temporary inconvenience, which a little care would have guarded against. All horsemen are aware that those who know least about horses are most reckless in driving them, and it is because they are ignorant of the danger they are incurring. Old railroad conductors will tell you that passengers commonly take risks which they would not think of running. There is only one safe rule for railroad passengers, and that is not to get on or off a train while it is moving, no matter how slowly. In like manner, those who are willing to risk their lives by standing on the platforms of railroad cars in motion, should know that they are in as much danger as if they were under range of an enemy's fire in a battlefield. Poor O'Connor had been a daily traveler by the South Side Railroad for years. Doubtless he had often taken a chance in getting off before, for he was a comparatively young, and an unusually active man. Richmond Hill was his station, and yesterday the cars started before he had observed that he had reached the end of his daily ride—being engaged in conversation at the time. There was less than the usual incentive in O'Connor's case for taking any risk, for it so happens that the train is stopped a few hundred yards from the Richmond Hill station, to comply with the law, which compels a train to come to a standstill when crossing the track of another road—as the South Side Railroad does at this point. The friends who were with him, and who were not injured by the jump which was fatal in his case, might not have known this, but he, of course, did. A walk back of a few hundred yards and a possible laugh at his expense were all he anticipated in making the venture of jumping off the cars when in motion. A little prudence and care would have preserved this good citizen at the head of his family of a wife and five or six children, in whose interest mainly he removed his residence permanently from the city to the country several years ago.

## Michael O'Connor death

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mpunt7441

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